



kakadu[®]

NATIONAL PARK

Garri-djarrkdurrkmirri
Working together

TOURISM INDUSTRY UPDATE

BANGGERRENG SEASON

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Speargrass stretching towards the sky



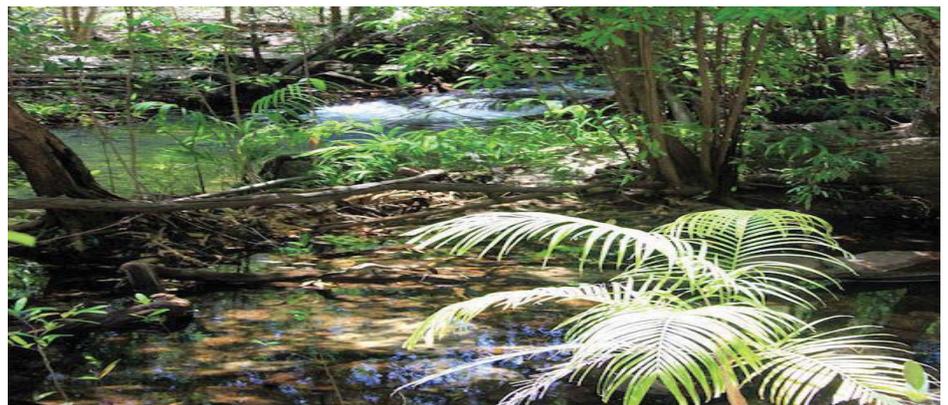
Even After Some Rain, It's A Little Drier Than Usual

While we have had a great deal of news about storms so far this wet season, we have still not experienced as much of the heavy monsoonal rain as we would expect to see at Kakadu. However, many of our native plants seem unaffected by the lack of rain, and the park is still looking lush and green.

Harvest time is almost upon us, with lots of different fruits ripening on trees and bushes. The flowering speargrass has grown tall, making for an interesting experience along the walking tracks to Gubara and in the Yurmikmik area.

If you are heading to Kakadu over the Easter long weekend, please stay safe and make sure you are prepared for all weather conditions. Severe storms can cause flash flooding and significant stream rises, sometimes with very little warning. Please travel safely and take any changing weather conditions into account.

Sign up to our road report to receive up-to-date information on site access and road conditions: kakaduroadreport.wordpress.com/



The Gubara Pools walk

Kakadu would like to wish you all a happy and safe Easter long-weekend. Hopefully, we will see you here.

Kakadu's Grasshopper Population Doing Well

The number of alyurr (Leichhardt Grasshopper) has fluctuated over the years since 2003. However, overall they seem to be doing quite well.

Unexpectedly at one of the regularly surveyed sites in January 2014 there was a huge increase in alyurr numbers from around 13 to around 800. Such a rapid increase in numbers has never been recorded by a survey before so this is really important. It tells us that unlike most tropical grasshoppers, alyurr eggs probably don't all hatch every year. This is good news because it means they have a better chance of survival when something goes wrong.

By January 2015 the total number of grasshoppers at the site was even higher than in 2014. This is because they were eating a plant called *Dampiera conospermoides* which are completely unrelated to the *Pityrodia* plants that alyurr normally eat. This seems to be the first record of alyurr using it as a major food source.

Alyurr numbers were also much higher in the survey sites next to the booming population.



It's NESP Now Not NERP

The National Environmental Research Program (NERP) funds environmental research to support decision making. Currently, the NERP Northern Australia Hub is hosted by Charles Darwin University, and focuses on the terrestrial, freshwater and estuarine ecosystems of the northern savanna landscapes. However, from mid-2015, research will continue through funding under the *National Environmental Science Programme*. The new Northern Australia Environmental Resources Hub will also be hosted by Charles Darwin University and planning is underway for the hub's research projects.

Once NESP has a mailing list, we will be sure to let you know but in the meantime if you would like to learn more about the Top End's ecosystems and environment, visit the NERP Northern Hub's website or sign up to their newsletter.

<http://www.nerpnorthern.edu.au/news/newsletter>



Northern quoll

Parks Week

Kakadu celebrated National Parks Week (9 – 16 March) with a flurry of activities to encourage locals and visitors alike to learn about and enjoy our incredible living cultural landscape. Some of the activities included:

- Our 'Green Season' photo competition was launched on Facebook attracting quite some interest as a good number of inspiring photos of Kakadu in its green season glory were submitted.
- A crowd of locals and visitors turned out for a guided walk up to Nawurlandja Lookout to enjoy the view over Burrungui (Nourlangie Rock) and connect local stories with the landscape.
- Jabiru School's Year 1/2 class and Children's Ground's after school program took part in educational activities.

It was a busy, fun week, all about connecting with nature and culture.

To see more amazing photos taken during Parks Week, visit www.Facebook.com/KakaduNationalPark



The winning photo of our Facebook competition by Peter Keepence

Standard Land-Based Permit Applications

We're processing permit applications now for operators running standard land-based commercial tours, ahead of the 31 March deadline.

If you're planning on running tours in Kakadu after 1 April 2015, don't forget to get your application in ASAP!

The first permits have already been mailed out. A big thank you to those operators who got their applications in early!

If you didn't receive your application pack by email, click on this link to download a permit application form: www.environment.gov.au/resource/tourism-operators

If you have any questions or queries about this process, please email Kakadu.permits@environment.gov.au or contact our Permits Officer, Doug Wade, on 08 8938 1140.

Road Safety Message

Those of you who travel along Kakadu's highways regularly have probably experienced that frightening moment when the vehicle driving in front suddenly slows down or even stops. They might be marvelling at the scenery, checking the map or taking a quick snap of some roadside wildlife, totally oblivious to other traffic.

Common sense should prevent this dangerous behaviour however we have recently received reports of vehicles being parked on some of Kakadu's roads while their passengers take photos.

We encourage everyone to remember that although you may not have encountered a great deal of traffic, you're still on public roads regularly used by coaches, heavy vehicles, wide loads and road trains. Please note that it is not safe to stop on any of the roads or bridges in the park, so please don't put your life and the lives of your passengers at risk!

Know Your Kakadu - Did you know?

Did you know that the concept of Kakadu as a national park was conceived 50 years ago this year?

The earliest proposal for the establishment of a major national park in the Alligator Rivers Region of the Northern Territory was made by the Northern Territory Reserves Board in 1965. Over the next 10 years a succession of modified proposals were put forward by interested persons and agencies. These culminated with a formal proposal by the Commonwealth Government to declare under the *National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Acts 1975* (NPWC Act) a major national park in the region. Stage One of Kakadu National Park was declared in 1979, Stage Two was added in 1984, and Stage Three proclaimed in 1987, with supplementary proclamations in 1989, 1991 and 2013.



Earth Hour 2015

Earth Hour started in 2007 as a lights-off event to raise awareness about climate change. Since then, they have grown to engage more than 162 countries and territories worldwide.

Thanks to its supporters, Earth Hour 2014 was the biggest yet, and they are hoping for an even bigger year in 2015.

Earth Hour is on Saturday, 28 March 2015 at 8:30 pm local time.

www.earthhour.org

We would like to know what you are interested in learning about regarding Kakadu.

If you have any suggestions as to what you would like included in a future edition of the Industry Update, please forward your suggestion to Kakadu.permits@environment.gov.au

For more information about Kakadu National Park contact Bowali Visitor Centre on (08) 8938 1120 or visit our websites.

Visitor Information

www.parksaustralia.gov.au/kakadu

Useful forms and information

www.environment.gov.au/resource/tourism-operators

Easter in Kakadu....

HOP TO IT!



Free Ranger Guided Activities

Good Friday

Nawurlandja sunset walk

5pm - 6.30pm

Meet in Nawurlandja car park



Easter Saturday

Nourlangie art site walk

4pm - 5.30pm

Meet under entry shelter



Easter Monday

Nourlangie art site walk

9am - 10.30am

Meet under entry shelter



Other great ideas for the long weekend

- Special Easter Sunday brunch, swim and Easter egg hunt at Aurora Kakadu Lodge in Jabiru from 9am - ph 08 8979 2422
- 1 hour scenic flight over Jim Jim & Twin Falls
 - Scenic Flight Company - ph 08 8979 3433
 - Kakadu Air - ph 1800 089 113
- Guluyambi Cruise and Ubirr Tour Combo - ph 1800 525 238
- Spirit of Kakadu Adventure Tour, Yellow Water Fishing Safaris, Paul Arnold Photographic Tour, Yellow Water Cruises - ph 1800 500 401



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